

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



272855

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLREP

Date: July 11, 1995
From: Charles Gebien, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region V
To: Terri Johnson, OSWER (703)603-9116
Rick Karl, EERB
H. Valetkevitch, OPA (312)353-1155
Don Bruce, EERB
Bill Messenger, EERB (312)353-9176
Eileen Furey, ORC (312)886-0747
Joe Schuessler, CDOE (312)744-5257
Joe Cisneros, EERB
US Fish and Wildlife Service, IL.
US Coast Guard District 9 (216)522-2738
Dennis Alberg, IEPA-ERU (217)782-1431
Subject: Autodeposition Inc. Site
Chicago, IL
Polrep No: Polrep 1
Site ID: WQ
D.O. No: 5001 - 05 - 373
Response Auth.: CERCLA/Emergency Response
NPL Status: NON-NPL
Start Date: 06/29/95

SITUATION:

The Autodeposition site is an inactive electroplating facility located at 1518 Hubbard Street in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The area around the site is primarily industrial. The site's electroplating apparatus are housed inside a two story building which takes up the entire city block formed by Ashland Avenue, Hubbard Street, Armour Street, and an alley. A small office is located at the south side of the facility. Upstairs, a small area was used as a locker room and storage area for records generated on site. The building is separated into three sections by walls with fire doors.

Autodeposition Inc. is currently owned by George and Glenn Westerberg. The facility originally started in 1923 as Mechanical Plating Company. While in operation, Mechanical Plating had several plating lines. The Westerberg brothers took over the Mechanical Plating Company in 1983, and continued operating under that name until November 19, 1991. In January of 1992, George Westerberg reopened the facility as Autodeposition Inc. Autodeposition Inc. opened with a new "immersion paint process". Approximately one year later, the business involuntarily dissolved and ceased operations. The City of Chicago Department of Environment discovered that the site was abandoned in December of 1994, and contacted the owners to secure the site.

In April of 1995, the City noted that the building was not secure. On May 12, 1995, Mr. Joseph Schuessler, City of Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE), Director of Toxic Pollution Control, referred the site to the U.S. EPA Emergency Removal and Response Branch (EERB) for consideration for a removal action.

On June 1, 1995, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien, Bill Ryczek, U.S. EPA, Lafayette Robertson, Senior Environmental Inspector, CDOE, Joseph Schuessler, and George and Glenn Westerberg, property owners met at the site to perform the site removal assessment. Mr. Westerberg unlocked the facility doors and provided information regarding the site. The site assessment team members observed various drums containing alkaline zinc, crystallized copper cyanide, chromic acid, and nickel black solutions. Over 100 drums of chromic acid were on site, some of which appeared to be leaking, in addition to over 50 open vats, some of which contained material. The floors of the building near the various plating lines are covered with plating wastes. A 2,500 gallon tank containing acid was observed in the west wall of room 1. A fenced area outside the building in the northeast corner of the site contained one 5,000 gallon capacity tank containing approximately 2,500 gallons of sulfuric acid; in addition, several drums were located in the outdoor area. A small on-site lab area contained the following: hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, buffer solutions, titrating solutions, silver nitrate, and acetone. Samples from several drums and vats were collected, in addition to composite floor and pipe insulation samples.

On June 23, 1995, the City of Chicago Fire Department (CFD) and CDOE responded to the continuing release of chromic acid from the site to a City sidewalk. The CFD neutralized the chromic acid on the sidewalk while Mr. Westerberg hired a board-up service to seal a dock door that had been ripped open by scavengers. City workers also turned off the water supply to the building to prevent further flooding within the building. On June 28, 1995, Mr. David Inman Assistant Commissioner, CDOE requested that U.S. EPA initiate immediate actions at the site to mitigate immediate threats to local residents from hazardous wastes at the site. The City of Chicago and the IEPA do not have sufficient funds to conduct the removal action.

On June 28, 1995, ERCS project officer Mary Elaine Gustafson and Rick Karl, Branch Chief, EERB approved a delivery order for \$50,000 to initiate emergency actions.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

The following actions were taken for the period of 6/29/95 thru 7/10/95:

- ERCS contractor Riedel Environmental Services mobilized a crew of 3 members at the site on June 29, 1995.
- After the site reconnaissance, OSC Gebien briefed ERCS crew about the intended work and the site safety plan was reviewed.
- ERCS crew repackaged/overpackaged leaking and overturned drums in outside fenced area and moved them inside building.
- ERCS crew neutralized spilled chromic acid with lime kiln-dust inside and outside the building.
- ERCS crew constructed decon area/support zone.
- ERCS crew secured a supply storage room.
- ERCS crew is cleaning debris from work area and loading it into a roll-off box.

NEXT STEPS:

- ERCS will initiate sampling of all drums, containers, tanks and floor sweepings during the week of 7/10/95.
- All suspected asbestos containing material will be sampled and cost estimates for removal will be obtained.
- Debris will continue to be removed from the work area.

KEY ISSUES:

- An action memo for the removal action is currently being prepared.

COST INFORMATION:

	TO DATE	CEILING
ERCS (PES)	\$ 8,000	\$ 50,000

* Estimates based on OSC estimate of 5/10/94.